

# Dean Disapproved For Release

## B. Haldeman

By George Lardner Jr.  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former White House Hunt had pressed for chief of staff H. R. (Bob) more money in a phone conversation earlier that week. Haldeman yesterday denied being told of the with then-White House Watergate burglars' demands for "hush money" son. An alleged co-conspirator in the cover-up case, Col- until the spring of 1973 son secretly recorded the when the scandal was conversation and gave the starting to unravel:

Once the No. 2 man at the White House under Presi- man on a special trip to Camp David, Md. he was unaware until then. Haldeman denied that the payments to the Dean had played it for him original Watergate defendants were for anything but "attorneys' fees and family support."

The testimony touched off a round of protests from Watergate prosecutors who the issue of why those payments were made.

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica overruled the objections and told the prosecutors to hold their fire until they begin cross-examining Haldeman next week.

The 48-year-old defendant began testifying in his own defense yesterday morning the President (Nixon) day and spent the rest of the and night." The assignment, day on the witness stand after a short interruption for a medical panel's report on Nixon's condition.

"Upstaged again," Haldeman said with a grin as he left for a waiting room.

Judge Sirica took no immediate action on the special panel's report that Nixon is too ill to undergo any questioning for the cover-up trial until early January.

The trial is expected to be over by then unless some special delay is granted.

A spokesman for the judge indicated that Sirica will await suggestions from the lawyers in the case before making any decisions. He has yet to rule on a motion by Nixon's attorneys to quash the subpoena for his testimony which former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman obtained several months ago.

Articulate and articulate under questioning by his own chief counsel, Haldeman squarely contradicted the testimony of former White House counsel John W. Dean III on a number of points concerning

WASHINGTON POST-30 NOVEMBER  
The prosecution's star wit- structure and carried an

both Haldeman and Ehrlich- man listened on Nov. 15, 1972, to an incriminating tape recording of Watergate spy E. Howard Hunt Jr.'s demands.

The former White Ho- aide said he did not re- reading the report, but I learned that it was from operative named Se

Chair II, a chauffeur

planted in the Demoer

camp of either Sen. Hub

Hub Humphrey or Sen.

Mund S. Muskie.

Haldeman said he learned of the secret word for illegal elec- surveillance of Demoer

headquarters, "Project C

stone," until "long af-

the discovery of the bugs-

on June 17, 1972.

His lawyer did not ask him about a segment of a June 23, 1972, tape-recorded conversation with President Nixon in which Haldeman

could be heard saying some-

thing like "Dovestone,

yeah."

The June 23 conversation, which forced Nixon's resig-

nation last summer, showed Nixon approved a plan to

"play it tough" and enlist the Central Intelligence Agency in an effort to limit the FBI's Watergate investi-

gation.

Haldeman maintained, however, that the interven-

tions had no sinister mo-

ties. He said Dean had

called him on the morning of June 23, 1972, and told him that the FBI was begin-

ning to track down a series of Nixon campaign checks

that had been cashed by one of the Watergate burglars.

Dean also told Haldeman that the FBI was working on

a theory that the Watergate break-in might have been a CIA operation.

Haldeman said he re- ported all this to President Nixon and they agreed to have the CIA ask the FBI

"Not to pursue the source of these checks to the point of raising embarrassment to the donors," since "the donations weren't related to Watergate at all."

Nixon often told Haldeman at their meetings to tell CIA officials that the Watergate investigation might open up

the whole Bay of Pigs

thing" again because of the Cuban and CIA back-

grounds of some of the bur-

glars. Haldeman suggested

that he took Nixon's word

for it.

"The President knew a great deal more about it

than I did," Haldeman said

of the abortive CIA-backed

Bay of Pigs invasion of

Cuba in 1961.

Approved For Release 2005/07/01 : CIA-RDP91-00901R000700090003-2

30 NOV 1974  
WITH

"It was a surprising re- sponse," Haldeman said.

The witness said it was "clear to me now" that the meeting included a discussion of the CIA's activities in Mexico where some of the Nixon campaign contributions had been laundered.

In any event, Haldeman said he "asked" the CIA's Walters to meet with then-acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III "to work out these areas of mutual concern"—a step that held up the FBI's investigation of the Nixon campaign checks for some two weeks.

"I don't believe I gave an instruction or order," Haldeman added. "I do not believe it would have been appropriate."

By contrast, Walters testified earlier this month that "It was a directive, not a suggestion. I thought Mr. Haldeman had some information that I did not."

Turning to the payments to the original Watergate defendants, Haldeman con-

ceded that Dean had told him of the money flow several times during the summer of 1972. But he insisted

that nothing Dean said sug-

gested that it was "hush

money to keep their silence."

The witness gave a simi-

lar cast to his approval of sending a secret \$350,000

White House cash box back

to Nixon campaign officials

over the winter of 1972-73.

Haldeman said Dean told

him that the campaign orga-

nization was having prob-

lems raising funds for

"these fees and so on for

the defendants." The former

White House staff chief said

he approved delivery of the

\$350,000 because he wanted

to get the money out of the

White House anyway.

Chief trial prosecutor

James F. Neal protested

the "subliminal" theme in Haldeman's

testimony that the payments

were perfectly proper if

Approved For Release 2005/07/01 : CIA-RDP91-00901R000700090003-2